ಮುಂದುವರೆಯಿತು. ಸಭಾ ಭವನದ ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದ ಬಳಿಕ ಮೆರವಣಿಗೆಯು ಇಬ್ಬಾಗವಾಯಿತು. ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲಿರುವ ತಮ್ಮ ಆಸನವನ್ನು ತಲುಪಿದ ಕೂಡಲೇ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರಗೀತೆಯನ್ನು ನುಡಿಸಲಾಯಿತು. ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮೇಲೆ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರವರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಬಲ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ, ಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಂಗಾಮಿ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರು ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಎಡ ಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿಯೂ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಧ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು. ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ವೇದಿಕೆಯ ಮುಂದುಗಡೆ ಇರುವ ಆಸನದಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಳಿತುಕೊಂಡರು.

2. ವಿಧಾನ ಮಂಡಲದ ಉಭಯ ಸದನಗಳನ್ನುದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು ಮಾಡಿದ ಭಾಷಣ:

ಗೌರವಾನ್ವಿತ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರು:

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಪತಿಯವರೇ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಭಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರೇ ಮತ್ತು ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸದಸ್ಯರೇ,

ತಮಗೆಲ್ಲರಿಗೂ ಹೊಸ ವರ್ಷದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಸುವರ್ಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to the joint session of the Karnataka Legislature. The year that has gone by saw some important landmark events, and we shall be moving ahead in the new year with the strong resolve of giving a better and more responsive administration to the citizens of Karnataka. My Government takes pride in the fact that for the first time a session of the State Legislature was held at Belgaum. It was a historic session and we are proud to have fulfilled the long standing demand of Kannadigas. My Government is committed to holding a session every year at Belgaum. The inaugural celebrations of Suvarna Karnataka were held on a grand scale. Now arrangements are in full swing to host the Vishwa Kannada Sammelan at Belgaum on February 23, 24 & 25th of this year. Kannadigas residing all over the world are being invited to participate in this event.

2. It gives me great pleasure to note that my Government has succeeded during the last one year, in confirming the perception amongst the citizens that this Government is that of the common man.

3. Several schemes which were formulated in response to the problems of the common man have been implemented successfully. It is a matter of satisfaction that agriculture loan at the rate of 4% to the Agriculturists, Suvarna Grama Yojana formulated for Rural development, Bhagya-Lakshmi Scheme for the welfare of the girl child, free bicycle scheme to encourage girl students, establishment of 500 Secondary schools, and 200 Pre - University colleges, subsidy for sowing seeds, impetus for Cooperative Sugar Factories, support price and market intervention for Onion, Copra, Tomato and other crops and several other schemes have given the expected benefits to the community.

4. The effort made by the State Government to solve the problems of Bangalore and other important cities of the State is laudable. Credit is due to my Government for giving shape to the concept of Bruhat Bangalore. The speeding up of the Metro Rail and Bangalore International Air port works has been appreciated. In order to solve the housing problem of the weaker sections the construction of six lakh houses has commenced. I am confident that these houses would be completed at the earliest. My Government is committed to provide shelter to all the houseless persons in the State.

5. The fiscal policies and financial position of the State Government have played a very important role in determining the economic growth and the financial position of the State has improved substantially. In this regard the State is in the forefront in the country. Several organizations have commended the fiscal reform measures of Karnataka Government. The Reserve Bank of India, in its report has appreciated the fiscal reform measures taken up by the State. Even the Central Planning Commission has expressed its appreciation in this regard. Besides, Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd.,(CRISIL) the credit rating organisation has placed Karnataka in AA-grade considering the economic progress achieved by the State. The State is committed to maintain its fiscal deficit at less than 3% of the Gross State Domestic Product as mandated in its Fiscal Responsibility Act. It is proposed to increase tax revenues by better tax administration, more use of Information Technology and rationalization where required.

6. The actions taken by my Government to improve the agriculture sector are unique. My Government has launched a new agriculture policy. It is my belief that the agriculture policy brought to improve the living conditions of agriculturists, if effectively implemented, will provide permanent relief to the farmers from most of the problems they are facing.

7. My Government feels grave concern over the cases of farmers suicide reported from various places. My Government which has as its basic premise, the protection of farmers interests stands committed to fulfill their aspirations. I appeal to the farmers, whatever may be the reason, not to take extreme steps such as committing suicide.

8. The Government of India has announced a special package for the six districts of the State, which reported high incidence of farmer's suicide viz, Belgaum, Hassan, Chikamagalore, Chitradurga, Shimoga, Kodagu. The total outlay for the package is of the order of Rs.2689.64 Crores, out of which Rs.1568.07 Crores will come in the form of grant and Rs.1121.57 Crores will come in the form of loan. The State Government has constituted a Cabinet Sub Committee to oversee the implementation of this Special Package.

9. Making use of the likely revenue accruing from the retrieval of encroached lands in Bangalore and their disposal as per rules, and mobilizing other resources, my Government is thinking of waiving of loans obtained by farmers from co-operative Institutions. A comprehensive study is being made as to the quantum of loans to be waived, and to which category of farmers.

10. Consumption of arrack is fatal to our people. My Government has observed that besides affecting the well being of the family several people are reduced to poverty due to this problem. We are seriously considering bringing in a ban on sale of arrack.

11. As I have already mentioned earlier my Government has for the first time-supplied seeds at 75% subsidized cost during 2006-07. The Government is also bringing a legislation to help farmers market their products directly to end users.

12. My Government has established and made functional an Agriculture College at Hassan under the University of Agriculture

Sciences, Bangalore. This has fulfilled the long pending demand of the Malnad region. A Veterinary College has also been sanctioned for Shimoga.

13. Considering the importance of horticulture, the plan allocation has been enhanced from a meager Rs.52.00 crores to Rs.300.00 crores during 2006-07. We have introduced a Garden Policy for the State under which Suvarna Karnataka Udyanavanagala Prathistana has been established covering within its umbrella all the gardens and parks in the State, belonging to Government. My Government will take all steps to export good quality horticultural produce.

14. In order to provide relief to fishermen/their dependents in case of death/permanent disability, the relief amount provided from the distress relief fund has been increased from Rs. 25,000/- per head to Rs. 50,000/- per head. Rs 13.48 lakhs have been distributed as relief to 102 fishermen during 2006-07. Interest concessions to them have been extended upto August 2006. The "Swavalambana Scheme" of lending money to women engaged in fishing at the rate of 4% is a very good and popular scheme.

15. During 2006-07, the State faced both severe flood as well as drought. Due to timely action of both the State Government as well as District Administration, effective relief and rescue measures were put in place. However, in the 8 flood affected districts there has been a huge loss both of property as well as standing crops. Due to this 817 villages and 1212403 people have been affected. 127514 people have been evacuated. My Government has decided that in some perennially flood prone areas, permanent rehabilitation will be provided. For the first time, in six districts, Belgaum, Bijapur, Bagalkot, Raichur, Koppal and Gulbarga, 90 villages are being shifted permanently for which an amount of Rs. 23 Crores has been already released for land acquisition.

16. Due to the severe drought situation in the State, 128 Taluks have been declared as drought affected Taluks. Khariff crop in 25.72 Lakh hectares has been affected and Rabi crop in 5.06 Lakh hectares has been affected. To handle the calamities, both flood and drought, my Government has released adequate funds. A memorandum has been submitted to the Government of India to relieve the distress

situation. Government of India has already released an amount of Rs. 250 Crores and 50,000 Metric Tonnes of food grains.

17. My Government has been extending adequate financial assistance to places of worship of people of all sects, through the Department of Religious and Charitable Endowment.

18. My Government has issued an Ordinance on 11.12.2006 prescribing imprisonment and fine for any one who unlawfully enters or occupies Government land, or create forged documents regarding Government lands, sells any agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes without getting such land converted, or who acts in contravention of any order passed under the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964. A Joint Legislature Committee has been constituted to give a report on this issue. On the basis of the report, suitable remedial action will be taken to remove the encroachments.

19. My Government places great emphasis on primary education and has taken measures to tackle the school dropout problem. Programmes like "Chinnara Angala" "Sanivara Bridge Course, opening of E.G.S. Centres etc., have been launched at a cost of Rs. 48.38 Crores to bring into the mainstream about 75000 dropout children in the age group of 6 – 14 years. Free uniforms and textbooks have been distributed without delay and bicycles have been distributed to all 175558 eligible girls at a cost of Rs. 35.63 crores.

20. My Government places utmost emphasis on public health and has taken up several schemes in furtherance of this goal. Important among them, is opening of reserved out patient – inpatient wards for the benefit of senior Citizens in all the District Hospitals, and providing well equipped Ambulance facility.

21. Based on Dr. Nanjundappa Committee's Report, new building works for the newly upgraded 51 Community Health Centres have been taken up. An Insurance Scheme "Suvarna Suraksha" is being implemented for the poor farm labourers. Action is being taken to provide more health benefits and an amount of Rs.35 crores is earmarked for this.

22. In a major fillip to medical education in the State, my Government has opened three new medical colleges at Belgaum,

Mandya and Hassan, during 2006. Similarly, my Government is thinking to start three more new medical colleges from the ensuing year depending on the priority. We shall obtain some more free seats in professional courses and conduct the admission process through CET successfully.

23. Reiterating its commitment to the development and welfare of socially and economically weaker sections, the Government has undertaken many programmes designed to help them. This year Rs.317 Crores have been earmarked and released for the welfare of Scheduled Castes which is an increase of 47.66% over the last year's allocation. The allocation under Special Component Plan has also been revised from Rs. 822 Crores to Rs.1457 Crores.

24. Keeping in mind the advice given by His Excellency the President of India during his address to the State Legislature on 20th November 2005, Government is imparting 3½ year GNM Nursing Course and 4 year B.Sc. Nursing Course to 3,800 Scheduled Caste candidates through Nursing Training Institutes recognized by the Nursing Council of India and State Government. Also 3,000 Scheduled Caste and Tribe Students are undergoing training in various courses at Government Tool rooms and Training Center and Airhostess training and Pilot training.

25. On account of continuous efforts made by the Government 13,504 Scheduled caste and Scheduled Tribes candidates have been recruited for various posts against backlog vacancies.

26. Rs.204.49 crores has been earmarked in the current year for the welfare of Backward classes, which is 12% more than the previous year's allocation. It is proposed to start 50 new pre-matric hostels, 20 Morarji Desai residential schools and airhostess and nursing training for the benefit of backward class students.

27. My Government is concerned about the well being of the girl child and with this in mind has introduced the Bhagyalakshmi Scheme wherein an amount of Rs.10,000 is deposited in the name of the girl child belonging to BPL families, born on or after 1-4-2006. It is expected that this amount, which together with interest will be given to the girl at the age of 18, will give her the independence and financial strength to face her future. The Karnataka State

Commission for Women is actively involved in bringing legal awareness among women, establishment of family courts, monitoring the constitution of committees on complaints of sexual harassment of women at the work place. My Government is committed to the upliftment of women and the disabled.

28. The Government has availed of the centrally sponsored Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission [JNURM] scheme to draw up programmes for improving the quality of life of slum dwellers. A project costing Rs.187.17 crores, for Bangalore city and another costing Rs.45.62 crores for Mysore city has been sanctioned under JNURM. The Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana is being successfully implemented.

29. It is programmed to complete 39 major & medium irrigation projects during 2006-07 and a grant of Rs.983.10 crores has been provided for these projects. As such, many of those projects which were lingering for more than 10 years are intended to be completed within one year. Irrigation benefits to 98,020 hectares of land could be provided from these projects. Of these, Bennethora, Rampura and Huchhanakoppalu projects have already been completed. Modernisation of canal works of Tungabhadra & Bhadra projects will be completed during the canal closure period.

30. In order to effectively utilize 173 TMC of water in the Upper Krishna Project my Government is committed to complete the balance works of Jewargi Branch Canal, Narayanapur Right Bank Canal, Mulwad Lift Irrigation Scheme, Almatti Right Bank Canal and Almatti Left Bank Canal of Upper Krishna Project during the current financial year. To utilize our share of Godavari waters effectively the State has taken up the construction of a series of barrages.

31. My Government is committed to provide financial assistance to complete the minor irrigation works within the specified time limit, generally in all places and particularly in drought areas.

32. The works of improvement of economically important roads in and around Bangalore have been taken up at an estimated amount of Rs.779 Crores. Construction of Mini Vidhana Soudhas, office complexes, residential buildings, Court buildings and hospital

buildings in various districts have been taken up by the Department at an estimated amount of Rs.750 Crores. Construction of buildings for High Court Circuit Benches at Dharwad and Gulbarga are being implemented with an estimated amount of Rs.66 Crores and Rs.65.45 Crores respectively, and works are under progress.

33. Action will be taken to upgrade the village roads in the State as major district roads. High priority will be given for the development of major district roads and State highways. Special action will be taken for the construction of bridges on village roads, major district roads and State highways. A special programme will be formulated for the development of State Highways through Karnataka Road Development Corporation. It is proposed to develop 3000 K.M. of road at a total cost about Rs. 4000 Crores under World Bank assisted Karnataka State Highway Development Project – Phase 2.

34. Karnataka has been a pioneer State in providing governance to the people through decentralization. An outstanding feature of the Panchayat Raj system in Karnataka is its significant effort to empower the voiceless section of the society by providing reservation not only to the cadre of members, but also to the posts of Chairperson of these Institutions. Transfer of funds, functions and functionaries to Panchayat Raj Institutions has always been on the top of the agenda of the Government. Karnataka is the only State next to Sikkim to have transferred all the 29 subjects to the Panchayat Raj Institutions as envisaged in the 73rd amendment to the Constitution.

35. Suvarna Gramodaya - a new scheme has been launched to develop strong village communities to have sustainable in depth infrastructure through an integrated approach. This new scheme has been launched to develop 1000 villages every year through joint efforts of Government, NGOs, private participation and village community.

36. My Government has formulated a scheme for providing safe and permanent drinking water to the village community.

37. The forests of Karnataka are abode to about 25% of the Elephant population and about 10% of the Tiger population of the country. The Government of India has agreed to declare Anshi National Park and Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary as the fourth Tiger

Reserve in the State. The Bankapura Fort area in Shiggaon Taluk, Haveri District has been declared as "Peacock Conservation Reserve'' during the year. Afforestation has been taken up over an extent of 53,910 hectares of degraded forest and other barren community lands in the State.

38. In order to effectively solve the planning and infrastructure issues and to have better Governance in Bangalore, my Government has initiated the process of establishing a Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike with a much wider jurisdiction than the existing Bangalore Mahanagara Palike. Several major works have been completed by agencies like BDA & BMP during the year. The KUWSDB has undertaken Water Supply Schemes in 45 cities and towns.

39. The Horanadu Kannadigara Samavesha was organized in Bangalore in August 2006. As part of the Suvarna Karnataka programmes my Government will being out a "Suvarna Karnataka Gazetter (1956-2006)" and a Bruhat Karnataka Samputta (from ancient times to 1799).

40. Consistent with the attractiveness of Karnataka as an investment destination and in the background of the rapid industrial growth, the pace of investment in Karnataka has shown a very rapid increase during the current year. For the period April to December 2006, 756 projects have been cleared with an investment of 78638.81 Crores and employment of 15,35,329.

41. "Suvarna Kayaka Udyoga Shikshana Yojane" has been launched by the State Government with a view to upgrade the skills of one lakh unemployed youths by encouraging public private participation in the training of such persons. Apart from the above, another scheme called "Suvarna Kayaka Koushalya Abhivrudhi Yojane" has been launched for training by creating training infrastructure through collaborative efforts of the private sector with assistance from the State Government.

42. Government is also committed for establishment of Speicial Economic Zones [SEZs] in two-tier cities of the State. Karnataka has obtained approval for establishment of SEZs at Hassan, Shimoga and

Mangalore. Apart from establishment of SEZs by private sector, mega SEZ is also planned around Mangalore for the petroleum sector.

43. A new Industrial Policy 2006-2011 has recognized that one of the important hurdles for rapid industrialization is the lack of proper industrial infrastructure in the State. In order to correct this lacuna, my Government envisages a two – pronged approach:

i) To acquire land wherever feasible and form industrial layouts atleast to the extent of 5000 acres per year in order to meet the surging demands by industries.

ii) To upgrade the quality of industrial infrastructure in the industrial estates by taking up upgradation works for which an amount of Rs. 500 crores is envisaged to be provided by the State Government.

44. Under the project for identification and rehabilitation of child labour, the Labour Department is working with the Education and Women & Child Development Departments to bring about convergence of efforts in rehabilitation and to take up extended awareness building programmes with the objective of ensuring universal enrolment and retention in school, and for preventing employment of children.

45. To protect the interest of Building and other construction workers Rules have been framed. This will benefit 15 lakh workers.

46. My Government has taken steps to computerize the issue of BPL cards. Temporary cards have been issued to the 1.10 crore beneficiaries identified through house-to-house survey. More than 64 lakh grievances have been received so far and action is being taken to redress them, after which the permanent ration cards will be issued.

47. Action will be taken to adopt the unit system of distribution of food grains to give 5 kgs (4 kgs Rice and 1 kg Wheat) to each person with maximum limit of 25 kgs (20 kgs Rice and 5 kgs Wheat) to the families identified during the door-to-door survey.

48. The law and order situation in 2006 in the State has been satisfactory. The police with the assistance of homeguards and fire

force personnel have made elaborate bandobast arrangements for religious festivals and for the Dattamala Abhiyana which have been observed peacefully. They have also handled emergency situations like the unprecedented floods in the rivers of Krishna and Bheema effectively. Naxalite and terrorists' activities in the State have been kept under control. The crime graph in the State during the year 2006, has shown a downward trend. Crimes against women as compared to the last two years have declined.

49. In order to curb the crimes in the growing Bangalore Metropolitan City, an additional South-East Police Zone has been established. Necessary action is being taken to strengthen the Police Force by formulating welfare schemes to the staff of Police Department.

50. The Karnataka State Police Housing Corporation Limited is the first public sector unit in the country to construct a 'Green Building' at Gulbarga. The corporation has won the Golden Peacock Eco Innovation Award for 2006, for its eco-friendly construction.

51. In view of the Suvarna Karnataka Year, 319 male prisoners and 3 female prisoners who had been awarded life imprisonment have been released by commuting their term for 9 years and 4 years respectively. In addition, several reformatory measures in the jail administration have also been taken.

52. Good Public transport is an essential feature of a fast growing economy. The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation have modernized their fleet by inducting more than 4000 new buses, which include high tech Volvo Busses. These Corporations have been adjudged as the best run State Corporations in the country.

53. As far as power generation is concerned, my Government is making all out efforts to enhance production capacity. Work is in progress on Units 3 and 4 of Varahi hydroelectric project which will have a capacity of 230 MW. The project is expected to be completed by November 2008. In respect of Unit 8 of Raichur Thermal Power Station with a capacity of 250 MW, Letter of Intent has been issued to M/s. BHEL for Boiler Turbine Generator (BTG) and Auxillary Package. Letter of Intent has also been issued to M/s. BHEL for

Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) Package in respect of Unit 2 of Bhadra Thermal Power Station with a capacity of 500 MW.

54. During the current year, Karnataka Power Transmission Company Limited(KPTCL) has completed the construction of 31 new stations and another 100 stations will be commissioned by the end of March 2007. This represents a significant acceleration of the speed of implementation by KPTCL.

55. Under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyudeekaran Yojana (RGGVY), Government of India had sanctioned projects for 17 districts at a cost of Rs. 375 crores during December 2005. I am happy to announce that during December 2006 Government of India has sanctioned projects worth Rs. 238 crores for the remaining 9 districts, viz. Gulbarga, Belgaum, Uttara Kannada, Shimoga, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Chikamagalur, Chamarajanagar and Kodagu. So far, under RGGVY, 47 villages, 730 hamlets and 1708 dalit bastis and Ashraya colonies have been electrified. 1,41,025 Rural Households have been provided with electricity which include 101073 BPL households. The distribution system has also been strengthened in 1268 electrified villages. Bio Mass Energy Unit has been established at Hassan.

56. Considering the importance of the role played by the airports in the growth of Tourism, Commerce and Industries, the Government is pro-actively pursuing the development of one dozen airports in the State. The Bangalore International Airport will be operational by April 2008. Airports at Mangalore, Belgaum and Hubli are being expanded by the Airports Authority of India (AAI). The State Government is providing the required extent of land free of cost to AAI.

57. The I.T & B.T. Sectors continued to do well during last year. I am happy to note that Bangalore continues to be the preferred destination for IT investments. Of the 208 new IT companies last year, four were listed among the Fortune 500 and 11 were Billion Dollar companies. The IT Sector alone provides direct employment to over 4 lakh persons in the state. The software exports of Rs 37,000 crores constituted 1/3rd share of India's software exports.

The Biotech Sector too attracted investment of over Rs 500 crores and entry of 35 new Biotech companies. We have provided in the budget for upgradation of roads and infrastructure for these industries. A new initiative by my Government during this year will be holding of the 'Bangalore Nano' event.

58. By conducting Janatha Sandarshana programme every week for redressal of public grievances, my Government responds and provides relief to the requests of the people.

59. I am happy to inform you that my Government has taken e-Governance forward and has rolled out a large number of projects. To name a few, Bhoomi, Bangalore One, Khajane, Kaveri have brought laurels to State. Now by setting up of 800 tele centres at hobli level under Nemmadi programme, my Government is taking administration to the doorsteps of the citizen. The setting up of e-Procurement platform would go-live shortly in pilot departments. The connectivity up to taluk level through Wide Area Network will also be achieved very soon.

60. I hope that this year brings in bountiful rains and prosperity to the State. Let us all strive to provide excellent governance to the people of Karnataka so that they can enjoy the benefits of the highest quality of life.

JAI HIND

JAI KARNATAKA